

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

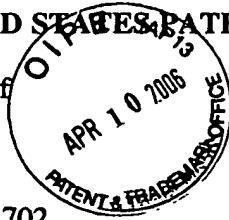
In re Patent Application of

Hajime Takei et al.

Application No.: 09/970,702

Filed: October 5, 2001

For: PRINTING SYSTEM, AND PRINT  
SERVER AND COMPUTER  
PROGRAM USED IN SAID  
PRINTING SYSTEM



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)  
) Group Art Unit: 2624

)  
) Examiner: Dillon J Murphy

)  
) Confirmation No.: 1791

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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In response to the Office Action dated November 9, 2006, Applicants respectfully  
request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claims.

The most recent Office Action maintains the rejection of claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 and 8  
under 35 U.S.C. §102, on the basis of the Hansen patent, and rejections of claims 3, 6 and  
9-15 under 35 U.S.C. §103, on the basis of the Hansen patent, in view of various  
secondary and tertiary references. For the reasons of record, which are discussed further  
below, it is respectfully submitted that the Hansen patent neither anticipates, nor otherwise  
suggests, the subject matter of the presently pending claims.

Among other distinctions, Applicants' previous response pointed out that the Hansen  
patent does not disclose a sorting means of the type recited in the claim, or the separating  
function performed by such an element. For instance, claim 1 recites a "sorting means  
for...separating the finishing specifics included in the job ticket received by the receiving